

Claims

- [c1] 1. A conveyor for offloading articles, comprising:
 - a conveyor belt forming an article-conveying surface extending laterally from a first side to a second side and longitudinally in the direction of belt travel;
 - a belt carryway supporting the belt;
 - a drive system driving the belt along the carryway in the direction of belt travel; and
 - the belt carryway including a tilt section elevating the first side of the belt relative to the second side to offload articles carried on the article-conveying surface across the lower second side of the belt at the tilt section.
- [c2] 2. A conveyor as in claim 1, wherein the conveyor belt further includes a plurality of rollers rotatably mounted in the belt with a salient portion extending above the article-conveying surface to engage conveyed articles in rolling contact.
- [c3] 3. A conveyor as in claim 2, wherein the rollers are rotatable about an axis parallel to the direction of belt travel.
- [c4] 4. A conveyor as in claim 1, wherein the conveyor belt is a modular conveyor belt including a series of rows of belt modules hingedly interlinked and wherein the belt modules are molded of an inherently slick plastic material to provide a low-friction article-conveying surface.

- [c5] 5. A conveyor as in claim 1, wherein the belt carryway at the first side of the belt is elevated relative to the belt carryway at the second side of the belt in the tilt section.
- [c6] 6. A conveyor as in claim 1, wherein the tilt section includes a plurality of lateral slats forming the carryway, the lateral slats being pivotable about a pivot axis parallel to the direction of belt travel to tilt the belt with the first side of the belt elevated relative to the second side of the belt.
- [c7] 7. A conveyor as in claim 6, further comprising a tilt control connected to each of the slats to control the degree of tilt of each.
- [c8] 8. A conveyor as in claim 7, wherein the tilt control comprises a push rod engaging the slat at the first side of the belt.